

# Temporary Protection Ireland

This annex on temporary protection complements and should be read together with the [AIDA Country Report on Ireland](#).

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## Temporary Protection Procedure

### A. General

Temporary protection refers to an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries and those unable to return to their country of origin.<sup>1</sup> Temporary Protection is established in EU law pursuant to the Temporary Protection Directive, which was introduced in 2001. While Ireland did not initially implement the Directive, the State subsequently opted in on 11 April 2003. The Directive was deemed to apply in Ireland from 31 December 2003.<sup>2</sup>

The Directive is transposed into Irish law pursuant to s.60 of the International Protection Act from 2015. Section 60(2) of the 2015 Act provides for permission for displaced persons to enter and remain in the State pursuant to a Council Decision under the TPD, whereby the individual's personal data is entered onto a register maintained by the Minister for Justice.<sup>3</sup> Section 60(7) states that permission shall be for a period of one year and may be renewed.

As per s.60(1) of the 2015 Act, beneficiaries of temporary protection are entitled to engage in employment or self-employment and access education on the same basis as an Irish citizen. Beneficiaries of temporary protection are also entitled to receive the same medical care and social welfare benefits and right of travel within the State as Irish citizens.

Subject to s.60(8) temporary protection may be revoked whereby the Council has ended temporary protection, where the person has been transferred to another Member State, or where the person has been excluded from temporary protection for one the reasons established in s.60(3) of the 2015 Act.<sup>4</sup>

Temporary protection was first activated in Ireland following the European Council's decision in March 2022 in response to the war in Ukraine and on 16 February 2023 was subsequently extended for an additional year, until March 2024.<sup>5</sup>

As of 11 May 2023, **82,196** individuals had registered for temporary protection in Ireland.<sup>6</sup>

The following table indicates a breakdown of the total number of applicants for temporary protection by gender and age:<sup>7</sup>

Age Group	Both Sexes	Male	Female
0 - 4 years	4,352	2, 628	2,804
5 - 12 years	12,414	6, 392	6,022
13-17 years	7,237	3, 758	3,515
18 - 25 years	8,628	3, 202	5, 426
26 - 35 years	14, 049	4,862	9, 187
36 - 45 years	15, 682	4, 976	10, 706

<sup>1</sup> Section 60(1), International Protection Act 2015, available at: <https://bit.ly/42wSMY9>.

<sup>2</sup> Bar of Ireland, 'A Primer on The Temporary Protection Directive – Alternative protection for those fleeing Ukraine', 9 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/45a4yK0>.

<sup>3</sup> Section 60(8), International Protection Act 2015, available at: <https://bit.ly/42wSMY9>.

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*, s.60(3).

<sup>5</sup> Department of Justice, 'Extension of Temporary Protection Permissions', 17 February 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/41Hvpli>.

<sup>6</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Temporary Protection granted to arrivals from Ukraine', 11 May 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3pMju0B>.

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*

46 - 55 years	8, 846	2,550	6, 296
56 years and over	11, 190	3, 299	7, 891
All ages	82, 434	31, 307	51, 127

## B. Qualification for temporary protection

Applicants can avail of temporary protection to reside in Ireland whereby they are:

- ❖ A Ukrainian national living in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;
- ❖ A third country national (a non-EU country other than Ukraine) or stateless person with refugee status or an equivalent national protection status in Ukraine living there before 24 February 2022;
- ❖ A 'family member' of one of the categories of persons above, who was resident in Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022. A 'family member' in this instance is defined as a spouse or unmarried partner in a stable relationship, minor unmarried children, or the minor children of the beneficiaries spouse, without distinction as to whether they were born in or out of wedlock or adopted; as well as any other close relatives who lived together as part of the family unit at the time of the circumstances surrounding the mass influx of displaced persons, and who were wholly or mainly dependent on the beneficiary;
- ❖ Stateless persons, and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine, who can prove that they were legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit issued in accordance with Ukrainian law, and who are unable to return in safe and durable conditions to their country or region of origin. Member States may also apply this Decision to other persons, including to stateless persons and to nationals of third countries other than Ukraine, who were residing legally in Ukraine and who are unable to return in safe and durable conditions to their country or region of origin.<sup>8</sup>

Ukrainian nationals who are currently present in Ireland on a short stay 'C' visa can also receive temporary protection. Ukrainian nationals who are present in Ireland on another immigration permit or stamp (e.g. student or employment permits) may decide whether to further extend or renew their existing permit, or to avail themselves of Temporary Protection.<sup>9</sup>

In all other circumstances, whereby an individual arrived in Ireland from Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022, they will be deemed ineligible for temporary protection. However, they may instead apply for international protection or some alternative form of migration permit.

## C. Access to temporary protection and registration

### 1. Admission to territory

On 25 February 2022, in response to the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the Irish Government announced, pursuant to the Immigration Act 2004 (Visas) (Amendment) Order 2022, the immediate lifting of visa requirements for Ukrainian citizens seeking to travel to Ireland.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection, 4 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/42QDBJM>.

<sup>9</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'Temporary Protection', 10 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3InVNSE>.

<sup>10</sup> Immigration Act 2004 (Visas) (Amendment) Order 2022.

As of May 2023, the visa waiver applied only to Ukrainian nationals and persons with international protection status in Ukraine. Non-EEA nationals, if they were visa required nationals, would still need a visa to enter Ireland. Those who travel to Ireland under the visa waiver will have a period of 90 days in which to regularise their status in the State.<sup>11</sup>

There have been no known reports of persons fleeing from Ukraine refused entry at the Irish border, nor have there been any reports of refusal of entry or other difficulties for beneficiaries of temporary protection re-entering the state after having returned to the Ukraine.

## 2. Freedom of movement

The Irish Government asked all airline carriers to accept government-issued identity documents, not usually accepted for the purposes of international travel, in lieu of a national passport for people seeking protection: including, national ID Cards, birth certificates, internal passports, and expired passports.<sup>12</sup> However, it should be noted that immigration authorities and transportation carriers must be satisfied with the identification of any individual arriving at a border. In addition, the state requested that no one seeking protection bound for Ireland be denied boarding without first contacting Irish immigration authorities.<sup>13</sup>

## 3. Registration under temporary protection

At the outset of the conflict, a reception centre opened at the Dublin Airport in order to process applications for temporary protection in respect of persons arriving in Ireland from Ukraine. Individuals were provided with Temporary Protection certificates, Personal Public Service numbers, medical cards and other relevant supports and advice. The Department of Justice and the Department of Children established offices in the centre and the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) supported the operation of the facility. Translation services were also provided where required.<sup>14</sup>

Further Ukraine Support Centres were subsequently established in Dublin city centre, Limerick, and Cork.<sup>15</sup> As of December 2022, operations at the Dublin Airport and Dublin city centres had ceased and instead moved to Citywest Convention Centre in west Dublin. Individuals arriving in Dublin Airport were brought directly to Citywest where they could apply for Temporary Protection and a PPS number. Individuals arriving at Rosslare Port could apply for Temporary Protection at the Port reception centre, while individuals arriving at Cork and Shannon airports could apply at the Cork and Limerick support centres respectively.<sup>16</sup>

The Department of Justice is responsible for the registration of temporary protection applications. Upon arrival at Citywest Convention centre, applicants are met by representatives of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and are assisted in completing the relevant forms required for registration. Applicants are then issued with a Personal Public Service number by the Department of Social Protection, permitting them access to social welfare and public services in Ireland.<sup>17</sup> Finally, Immigration Officers record the details of each applicant, applicants are photographed and copies of their passport and other ID documents are made.

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<sup>11</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

<sup>12</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum, 'Temporary Protection: Ireland', June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3oalZJV>.

<sup>14</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>15</sup> Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Roderic O'Gorman, Response to Parliamentary Question Nos 8, 13, 19, 30, 50, 65, 72, 73, 298 and 306, 24 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3jZ13D8>.

<sup>16</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, FAQs – for Ukraine nationals and Residents of Ukraine, 6 January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3jP6F2y>.

<sup>17</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum, 'Temporary Protection: Ireland', June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3oalZJV>.

In order to demonstrate eligibility for temporary protection, applicants should provide identity and travel documents, as well as any supporting documents (e.g. marriage certificate, birth certificate, adoption certificate etc.), and any other essential information which proves that the requirements of temporary protection are met. Applicants are typically required to evidence by way of relevant exit stamp in their passport that they were present in the Ukraine on or after the outbreak of the war on 24 February 2022. Where an applicant fails to provide such evidence, the Irish Refugee Council are aware of reports of applicants being required to supply other documentary evidence, for example, receipts or bank statements evidencing their presence in Ukraine at the outbreak of the war.<sup>18</sup>

Where an applicant has been determined to comply with the requirements of the Directive, a certificate confirming temporary protection under the EU Directive is issued to the applicant by the Department of Justice. This certificate confers the holder with permission to reside in Ireland for a period of 1 year, which may be extended for further periods in accordance with the Directive.<sup>19</sup>

In the experience of the Irish Refugee Council, at the outset of the conflict, persons who arrived in Ireland from Ukraine in possession of long-stay visas for certain countries, in particular Canada and the United Kingdom, were refused temporary protection, despite being eligible. Additionally, those who had fled Ukraine and subsequently resided in other countries without a valid immigration permission were also refused, despite being otherwise eligible. The exact reasons for this practice are unclear.<sup>20</sup>

There is no established appeals mechanism whereby an applicant can challenge a decision to refuse temporary protection. However, according to the Department of Justice, depending on the individual circumstances of the applicant, it may be possible for them to re-present to Immigration Officials at Citywest or one of the dedicated Ukraine Support Centres to submit new evidence demonstrating that they fall within the remit of the Directive.<sup>21</sup> Where such evidence is accepted, the applicant may be granted temporary protection in the State.

In the experience of the Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support team, there have been no practical difficulties for applicants in registering for temporary protection. The Citywest Transit Hub is staffed by trained volunteers and interpreters who are supported by IOM staff. The system is streamlined so that registration is conducted and documentation is received by applicants expeditiously.<sup>22</sup>

#### **4. Legal assistance**

There is no dedicated legal assistance service for beneficiaries of temporary protection in Ireland. Various NGOs have, since the outset of the conflict, offered free legal advice and information services to persons requiring them. Beneficiaries of temporary protection may also access assistance for a variety of legal matters through the Legal Aid Board, a statutory body responsible for the provision of civil and criminal legal aid and advice, on the same basis as Irish citizens, should they meet the eligibility criteria.

#### **5. Information provision and access to NGOs**

On arrival at a port of entry in Ireland, individuals seeking temporary protection are guided to a specific area at immigration control whereby they will be met by an immigration officer, an interpreter and a representative of IOM. If an applicant indicates that they wish to apply for Temporary Protection, they will then be transported to the Citywest Transit hub by bus where they will be assisted in making their application.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>19</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>21</sup> Information provided by Department of Justice, May 2022.

<sup>22</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>23</sup> *ibid.*

The law does not provide for the provision of information to temporary protection beneficiaries. However, all beneficiaries are provided with written information regarding particular services available to them while in Ireland. This information is provided in Ukrainian, Russian, and English.<sup>24</sup>

The Immigration Service Delivery has prepared two documents for persons seeking temporary protection, 'Information on Temporary Protection for People fleeing the conflict in Ukraine'<sup>25</sup> and a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document.<sup>26</sup> Both documents are published in English on the Immigration Service Delivery website.

Non-governmental organisations, citizens information services and community groups have also compiled information which is widely available for beneficiaries of temporary protection. Many immigration advocacy services have also established information and advice services staffed by Ukrainian and Russian speakers in order to provide information and support to beneficiaries of temporary protection.

#### D. Guarantees for vulnerable groups

There is no specific identification mechanism in place providing for the identification of individuals entitled to temporary protection who require specific procedural guarantees. All individuals are met by an immigration officer upon arrival at the relevant point of entry and will be assisted by an interpreter and an IOM representative.<sup>27</sup>

Where an applicant is identified as an unaccompanied minor, they will be met by a representative of TUSLA and taken into the care of the State.<sup>28</sup>

The Health Service Executive (HSE) are also present at the Citywest Transfer Hub in order to conduct health screenings in respect of persons arriving from Ukraine. Applicants requiring further medical attention or assessment will be sign posted to relevant services.<sup>29</sup>

In relation to mental health support, at the onset of the conflict, the Ukrainian community in Ireland created a list of Ukrainian-speaking psychotherapists from Kyiv Gestalt University who are providing free counselling to those impacted by the conflict.<sup>30</sup> Additionally, the 'Call Tanya Helpline' was established on 17 of April 2023, in order to provide confidential psychosocial support to Ukrainians in Ireland who are experiencing distress due to displacement and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Trained call ambassadors are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00 to provide psycho-social support in Ukrainian and Russian.<sup>31</sup> Counselling and Psychotherapy is provided free of charge to displaced Ukrainians by MyMind. Counselling is provided through Ukrainian and Russian speaking counsellors and psychologists and supported by the HSE.<sup>32</sup> Specialised treatment and psychosocial support for torture survivors is mainly provided by SPIRASI, which receives some funding from the Health Service Executive.

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<sup>24</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, "Information on Temporary Protection for People fleeing the conflict in Ukraine", 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/458iS5E>.

<sup>26</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

<sup>27</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>28</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> Help Ukraine Ireland, 'Counselling Services for Ukrainians', March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/43cFfFu>.

<sup>31</sup> Irish Examiner, 'National Psychological support helpline for Ukrainian refugees to be launched in Cork', 17 April 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/42SIPFR>.

<sup>32</sup> MyMind, 'Free Counselling for Displaced Ukrainians', available at: <https://mymind.org/ukrainianproject>.

## Content of Temporary Protection

### A. Status and residence

#### 1. Residence permit

##### Indicators: Residence permit

1. What is the duration of residence permits granted to beneficiaries of temporary protection?  
1 year (renewable)
2. How many residence permits were issued to beneficiaries from the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive?  
82,196 individuals as of 11 May 2023.<sup>33</sup>

Upon obtaining temporary protection, beneficiaries of temporary protection are issued with a Certificate of Temporary Protection. Certificates are issued by the Department of Justice and can be obtained following registration at Citywest Processing hub in West Dublin or one of the dedicated Ukraine Support Centres located in Cork and Limerick.

In order to demonstrate eligibility for temporary protection, applicants should be able to present identity and travel documents, as well as any supporting documents (e.g. marriage certificate, birth certificate, adoption certificate etc.), and any other essential information which proves that the eligibility requirements for temporary protection are met. Applicants are typically required to evidence, by way of relevant exit stamp in their passport, that they were present in the Ukraine on or after the outbreak of the war on 24 February 2022. Where an applicant fails to provide such evidence, the Irish Refugee Council was made aware of cases in which applicants were required to supply other documentary evidence, for example, receipts, evidencing their presence in Ukraine at the moment of the war outbreak.<sup>34</sup>

Where an applicant has been determined as eligible for temporary protection, a certificate confirming their status is issued to the applicant by the Department of Justice. This certificate confers the holder the permission to reside in Ireland for a period of 1 year, which may be automatically extended for further periods in accordance with the Directive.<sup>35</sup>

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Ireland may transfer their residence to another EU Member State, however, persons wishing to do so must ensure to withdraw their temporary protection status in Ireland after having taken up Temporary Protection in another Member State.<sup>36</sup> In order to do so, applicants can submit a request in writing along with a copy of their passport to the Department of Justice, or alternatively, attend the Citywest Transfer Hub.<sup>37</sup>

#### 2. Access to asylum

There is no requirement for those fleeing the war in Ukraine to seek international protection in order to receive support and protection upon arrival in Ireland. While applicants can choose to seek international protection, one cannot benefit from temporary protection at the same time. However, once registered under the Temporary Protection Directive, it is possible for a beneficiary to instead apply for international protection, provided they first renounce their temporary protection status. Equally, it is possible for someone who has previously applied for international protection to subsequently register for temporary protection, provided they withdraw their asylum application and meet the qualifying criteria for temporary protection.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Temporary Protection granted to arrivals from Ukraine', 11 May 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3pMju0B>.

<sup>34</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>35</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'Information on Temporary Protection for People fleeing the conflict in Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/458iS5E>.

<sup>36</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>37</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.



There have been no issues reported regarding access to the the international protection process in respect of those entitled to temporary protection. However, it should be noted that the asylum procedure has a significant length at present. Throughout 2022, the median processing time for first instance decisions was approximately 18 months.<sup>39</sup> The EU temporary protection directive provides a quicker and more streamlined process in these circumstances. Temporary protection provides beneficiaries with immediate access to the labour market, along with access to social welfare income supports and accommodation. If an applicant chooses to apply for asylum, they will not be permitted to access employment until 6 months after making their initial application for protection. Moreover, international protection applicants are not permitted to access social welfare supports in the State and are instead provided with a weekly stipend, known as the Daily Expense Allowance, in the amount of €38.80 per week.

422 applications for international protection were made by Ukrainian nationals in 2022. It is not known whether they would be automatically entitled to temporary protection as some of those applications may have been lodged prior to 24 February 2022.<sup>40</sup>

## B. Family reunification

The provisions of the International Protection Act 2015 expressly provide for family reunification with core family members, however, beneficiaries of temporary protection do not constitute 'qualified persons' for the purpose of the Act and thus, cannot benefit from family reunification provisions pursuant to s.56.

The Council Implementing Decision provides for family reunification for beneficiaries of temporary protection with spouses or partners, or any children under the age of 18, and thus circumvents this difficulty.<sup>41</sup> As a beneficiary of temporary protection, it is possible to activate a family reunification procedure, either in Ireland or in another Member State of the EU whereby the spouse, partner or child holds temporary protection in another EU member State. This is subject to cooperation between Ireland and the Member State concerned.<sup>42</sup> At the time of updating, there was no established mechanism by which to facilitate family reunification in Ireland. In the experience of the Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, the vast majority of applicants seeking family reunification in Ireland claim temporary protection independently of their family members. Reunification is then facilitated.<sup>43</sup>

## C. Movement and mobility

Freedom of movement within the State is not restricted by law, and beneficiaries of temporary protection are afforded the same liberties as Irish citizens.

However, in practice, freedom of movement is restricted for some beneficiaries of Temporary Protection residing in International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) accommodation. This is due to IPAS rules which restrict residents' ability to freely leave and subsequently re-access their accommodation following a period of absence. From 31 of March 2022 onwards, beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are permitted to take one short-term absence in exceptional circumstances (a maximum of 7 non-cumulative days) over a 6-month calendar period. Residents are obliged to notify their accommodation

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<sup>39</sup> Acting Minister for Justice Simon Harris, Response to Parliamentary Question No 558, 31 January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3X56bmM>.

<sup>40</sup> Breaking News, 'Almost 450 ukrainians have entered Direct Provision since start of last year', 1 March 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3BTGVrv>.

<sup>41</sup> Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection, 4 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/42QDBJM>.

<sup>42</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

<sup>43</sup> Information provided by the Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

provider of their planned absence and must complete an Absence Notification Form which must be submitted to IPAS. Absences are considered on a case-by-case basis by IPAS and applicants are required to remain in regular contact with their accommodation provider and provide updates on the duration of their proposed absence.

Whereby a resident is absent for a period in excess of 7 days, or fails to notify the accommodation provider of their proposed absence, their bed may be re-allocated and no further accommodation will be offered.<sup>44</sup>

There are no constraints with regard to beneficiaries of temporary protection leaving the State temporarily, should they wish to do so. This includes short term trips to Ukraine. At present, there is no notification system in place by which beneficiaries of temporary protection are required to advise the State of their intention to travel. However, beneficiaries who leave the State may still require a visa to travel. Beneficiaries planning to travel and subsequently return to Ireland should retain their Temporary Protection Certificate and show same to the immigration authorities on re-entering the country. Ukrainian nationals and nationals of any other country that are eligible for the visa waiver need not take any additional steps when returning to Ireland.<sup>45</sup>

It should be noted that beneficiaries who are receiving social welfare supports from the State should notify the Department of Social Protection if they intend to be outside of the country for a period greater than two weeks. Pursuant to s.249(6) of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005, payments may be made administratively for up to two weeks in any calendar year in respect of periods of absence from the State. On that basis, temporary periods of absence of up to two weeks may be facilitated. Beneficiaries' payment will be suspended for a two-week period and paid upon their return. Where a beneficiary is going to be absent from the State for a period greater than two weeks, they will be required to close their claim and reapply for income supports upon their return.<sup>46</sup> Additionally, as noted above beneficiaries of temporary protection who are accessing State-provided accommodation are permitted one 7-day absence over a 6 months calendar period and are obliged to notify their accommodation provider of same. Whereby a resident is absent for a period in excess of 7 days, or fails to notify the accommodation provider of their proposed absence, their bed may be re-allocated and no further accommodation will be offered.<sup>47</sup>

## D. Housing

### Indicators: Housing

1. For how long are temporary protection beneficiaries entitled to stay in reception centres?	No specific time limit in place
2. Number of beneficiaries staying in reception centres as of 15/05/23	54,151 <sup>48</sup>
3. Number of beneficiaries staying in private accommodation as of 15/05/23	10,287 <sup>49</sup>

Individuals requiring immediate accommodation in the State have been housed facilities contracted by IPAS. Accommodation was provided through different channels including hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts, hostels and local authority facilities. Families and adults of the same sex are often required to share rooms. At present, there is a shortage of available accommodation and the type of accommodation provided depends on what is available at the time at which it is requested; beneficiaries of temporary protection do not have a choice regarding the location. Whereby a beneficiary refuses an offer of

<sup>44</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Short term accommodation: Refusals Protocol for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine', 24 November 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/43fTokZ>.

<sup>45</sup> Information provided by Department of Justice, October 2022.

<sup>46</sup> Department of Social Protection, 'Operational Guidelines, 20 June 2019, available at: <https://bit.ly/42Xnev0>.

<sup>47</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Short term accommodation: Refusals Protocol for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine', 24 November 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/43fTokZ>.

<sup>48</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection – Weekly Statistics', 15 May 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3lx10dL>.

<sup>49</sup> *ibid.*

accommodation, they may not receive any further offer from IPAS. Due to a lack of available places, requests for transfer within IPAS accommodation will only be facilitated in the most exceptional of circumstances. Additionally, as noted above beneficiaries of temporary protection who are accessing State-provided accommodation are permitted one 7-day absence over a 6-month calendar period and are obliged to notify their accommodation provider of same. Whereas a resident is absent for a period in excess of 7 days or fails to notify the accommodation provider of their proposed absence, their bed may be re-allocated and no further accommodation will be offered.<sup>50</sup>

Meals are provided if the centre does not have self-catering facilities. From 3 January 2023, in an effort to ease pressure on the State's accommodation system, Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection staying in IPAS-provided accommodation were required to pay for their meals at a cost of €10.00 per day for adults and €5.00 per day for children. This cost had previously been borne by the State. Residents are not required to pay for their first 2 weeks in accommodation, however, if they refuse to pay afterwards, they may be asked to leave.<sup>51</sup>

In addition to State-provided accommodation, the Irish Red Cross, in conjunction with the government and Local Authorities, established an accommodation pledge programme in which Irish residents can pledge a spare room in their home or a vacant property in which to accommodate Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection.<sup>52</sup> As of October 2022, the Irish Red Cross had received approximately 21,000 pledges, 10,000 of which had been deemed suitable. As of October 2022, approximately 4,800 Ukrainian nationals had been placed in private-hosting arrangements around the country.<sup>53</sup>

Additionally, in March 2022, a voluntary organisation, Helping Irish Hosts, was established, whereby prospective hosts can register and be matched with displaced beneficiaries of temporary protection requiring accommodation. Hosts can also register with Helping Irish Hosts in order to connect with other host families, share experiences and provide mutual support. As of January 2023, Helping Irish Hosts had matched almost 800 beneficiaries of temporary protection with over 260 Irish host households.<sup>54</sup>

In July 2022, the Government introduced an Accommodation Recognition Payment for households hosting beneficiaries of Temporary Protection having fled the conflict in Ukraine. An initial payment of €400.00 per month was paid to hosts and backdated as far as the 4 March 2022. The payment is administered by the Department of Social Protection on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.<sup>55</sup> In December 2022, the payment was increased to €800.00 per month.<sup>56</sup>

Beneficiaries of temporary protection may be entitled to apply for state housing support such as Rent Supplement and the Rental Accommodation Scheme in the case that they have independently rented a house or apartment and meet the requisite eligibility criteria.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Short term accommodation: Refusals Protocol for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine', 24 November 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/43fTokZ>.

<sup>51</sup> The Irish Times, 'Ukrainian refugees must start paying for meals or face eviction', 31 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3CxPDfT>.

<sup>52</sup> Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Roderic O'Gorman, Response to Parliamentary Question Nos 8, 13, 19, 30, 50, 65, 72, 73, 298 and 306, 24 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3jZ13D8>.

<sup>53</sup> RTÉ, 'Host Family Wait 6-months to welcome Ukrainian families', 26 October 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3WUR2Wa>.

<sup>54</sup> Open Community, Supports for Hosts and Host Communities, January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3VVSDtr>.

<sup>55</sup> Government of Ireland, €400 'Accommodation Recognition Payment' for hosts accommodating people from Ukraine is open for applications, 26 July 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3ZuWj8C>.

<sup>56</sup> Government of Ireland. Accommodation Recognition Payment, 5th January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3QIFnNw>.

<sup>57</sup> Minister for Social Protection Heather Humphreys, Response to Parliamentary Question No 211, 22 June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3BO1MNa>.

Numerous challenges have arisen in the provision of accommodation to beneficiaries of temporary protection. The primary and most significant challenge is that of accommodation services reaching capacity due to difficulties in sourcing appropriate accommodation. On 24 January 2023, the government announced that it could no longer guarantee that beneficiaries of temporary protection in Ireland would be provided with temporary accommodation by the State. This was due to a lack of State-accommodation capacity.<sup>58</sup> However, in the experience of the Irish Refugee Council, there have been no reported cases to date of a beneficiary of temporary protection having been refused accommodation on arrival in Ireland.<sup>59</sup> In relation to pledged accommodation, over 85% of properties pledged for use by beneficiaries of temporary protection had not been brought on stream as of September 2022. Progress in this regard has been frustrated due to properties being unsuitable and offers of accommodation being withdrawn.<sup>60</sup> As of 15 May 2023, **54,151** beneficiaries of temporary protection were staying in IPAS accommodation, while **10,287** beneficiaries were staying in private rented accommodation.<sup>61</sup>

## E. Employment and education

### 1. Access to the labour market

Having received their Temporary Protection Certificate, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are entitled to access the labour market on the same basis as Irish citizens. The Temporary Protection Certificate itself is adequate proof of entitlement to take up employment in the State. Beneficiaries of temporary protection are thus entitled to the full range of statutory employment rights and protections in the same manner as Irish employees.<sup>62</sup>

As of 13 March 2023, 18,101 beneficiaries of temporary protection had accessed the labour market in Ireland.<sup>63</sup> The following table provides a breakdown of the sectors in which individuals were employed.<sup>64</sup>

Financial and insurance activities	125
Transportation and Storage	246
Information and communications	315
Public Administration and Defence	194
Education	416
Human Health and Social Work Activities	416
Real estate activities	378
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	508
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	537
Construction	901
Administrative and Support Service Activities	1,515
Miscellaneous Sectors	1,048
Manufacturing	1,920
Wholesale and Retail Trade	2,940

<sup>58</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Citywest Transit Hub to pause entry of new International Protection arrivals to its emergency accommodation area', 24 January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3Ow3wlu>.

<sup>59</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>60</sup> The Irish Times, 'Over 85% of properties pledged for Ukrainian refugees not 'activated'', 7 September 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3Ws4f9B>.

<sup>61</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection – Weekly Statistics', 15 May 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3lx10dL>.

<sup>62</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

<sup>63</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Temporary Protection granted to arrivals from Ukraine', 11 May 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3pMju0B>.

<sup>64</sup> *ibid.*

Accommodation & Food Service Activities (I)	6,642
All Economic Sectors	18,101

## 2. Access to education

Child beneficiaries of temporary protection between the ages of 4 and 18 years are entitled to access public primary or post-primary education provided by the State on the same basis as Irish children.<sup>65</sup> Beneficiaries of temporary protection can approach any primary or post-primary school and seek information on how to enrol a child in the school. The Tusla Education Support Service provides assistance to parents in locating school places for their children.<sup>66</sup>

The Department of Education also established the Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT) to support the needs of child beneficiaries of temporary protection. REALT is hosted by the 16 regional Education and Training Boards. The primary role of REALT is to build upon existing regional education support structures with an initial focus on assisting Ukrainian families to secure school places. English language classes for child beneficiaries of temporary protection are available through local Education and Training Boards.<sup>67</sup>

The Department of Education confirmed that as of 31 March, **15,282** Ukrainian pupils have been enrolled in schools across Ireland. Of that figure, **9,877** of these pupils have been accommodated in primary schools while **5,405** pupils have enrolled in post-primary schools. Current data indicates an enrolment rate of 90% among Ukrainian children aged 5-18.<sup>68</sup>

All Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are eligible to access third-level education and vocational training on the same basis as Irish citizens. Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection who are seeking to apply for a first-time place in higher education in Ireland are required to apply through the CAO (Central Applications Office). Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection applying to access the Irish higher education system are subject to the same conditions as Irish students for the purposes of fees, meaning that students with temporary protection status will be liable for EU fees.<sup>69</sup> In order to assist students with the cost of tuition fees, an administrative scheme, the Temporary Tuition Fee Support Scheme for displaced Ukrainian Students, was established by the Department of Further and Higher Education for the academic year 2022/2023. In order to be considered eligible for the scheme, students were required to be an individual in respect of whom a permission to reside in the State had been granted pursuant to s.60 of the International Protection Act 2015 or an Irish national who was attending a Higher Education Institution in the Ukraine during the 2021/2022 academic year and subsequently arrived in Ireland due to the conflict without completing their course of study, but who had taken up a place on an authorised transition scheme during the academic year 2022/2023. Moreover, applicants were required to be present and residing at an address within the State and attending or intending to pursue an approved course in the 2022/2023 academic year.<sup>70</sup> At the time of writing, it had not been confirmed whether the Support Scheme would be administered once again for the 2023/2024 academic year.

Additionally, the Department of Further and Higher Education established a Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Bursary for Displaced Persons from Ukraine for the academic year 2022/2023. The Scheme provided students with the opportunity to undertake full-time study for a period of one or two years, with courses leading to major awards at National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Levels 5 and 6, while

<sup>65</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

<sup>66</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum, 'Temporary Protection: Ireland', June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3oaIZJV>.

<sup>67</sup> ETBI, 'Regional Education and Language Teams for Ukraine, 6 June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3OwYI4X>.

<sup>68</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Temporary Protection granted to arrivals from Ukraine', 11 May 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3pMju0B>.

<sup>69</sup> Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris, Response to Parliamentary Question No 1050, 18 January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3Mtlqmk>.

<sup>70</sup> Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, 'Minister Harris announces new measures to provide access to further and higher education for displaced Ukrainian students', 21 June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/42VvMCp>.

also receiving a bursary not exceeding €6,115 in total for the academic year. In order to be eligible for the scheme, students were required to have been granted temporary protection pursuant to s.260 of the International Protection Act 2015, be living in Ireland and participating in an approved full-time post leaving certificate (PLC) course.<sup>71</sup> It was not clear at the time of updating whether or not the Bursary Scheme would be offered for the forthcoming 2023/2024 academic year.

## F. Social welfare

Beneficiaries of temporary protection are entitled to social welfare payments in the same manner as eligible Irish nationals pursuant to s. 60(10)(b) of the IPA 2015. As such, there are a broad range of social welfare entitlements of which a beneficiary of temporary protection may avail themselves, including access to jobseeker's allowance for those who are unemployed but actively seeking work; access to disability allowance for those unable to provide for themselves due to disability or illness; access to the one-parent family payment for single parents, and access to child benefit for parents/guardians. Applications for the various payments may be made at the applicant's local Intreo office.

As of May 2023, **35,388** beneficiaries of temporary protection were receiving income support payments. A further **13,909** beneficiaries were receiving child benefit payment.<sup>72</sup>

## G. Health care

Beneficiaries of temporary protection are entitled to the same medical and social care as Irish citizens in accordance with s. 60(10)(b) IPA 2015. Beneficiaries of temporary protection receive healthcare services from the Health Service Executive (HSE), including access to General Practitioners (GPs), community care, hospital or emergency care, children's health services, mental health services, disability services, and maternity care.<sup>73</sup>

The Health Service Executive (HSE) are present at the Citywest Transfer Hub in order to conduct health screenings in respect of persons arriving from Ukraine. Applicants requiring further medical attention or assessment will be sign posted to relevant services.<sup>74</sup>

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are automatically entitled to a medical card on arrival in Ireland. A medical card permits access to medical services, prescription medications and hospital services free of charge.<sup>75</sup> At the time of writing however, proposals were established by the Department of Health with a view to introducing a standardised means assessment for all medical card holders a year after their arrival in Ireland. It is envisaged that Ukrainian people will continue to maintain existing eligibility for a medical card pending transition to and completion of a standard means assessment process over the coming months. All incoming Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection will continue to have access to a medical card for their first year in Ireland.<sup>76</sup>

As of March 2023, **59,627** medical cards were issued to arrivals from Ukraine.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, 'PLC Bursary for Displaced Persons (Ukraine) Scheme 2022: Your questions answered', 17 August 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3WprWix>.

<sup>72</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Temporary Protection granted to arrivals from Ukraine', 11 May 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3pMju0B>.

<sup>73</sup> HSE, 'Healthcare services for Ukrainian nationals in Ireland', available at: <https://bit.ly/42VUF16>.

<sup>74</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>75</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>76</sup> Irish Examiner, 'Ukrainians to be means-tested for medical cards after a year', 30 March 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3MNml2n>.

<sup>77</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Temporary Protection granted to arrivals from Ukraine', 11 May 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3pMju0B>.

Regarding psycho-social supports, at the onset of the conflict, the Ukrainian community in Ireland has created a list of Ukrainian-speaking psychotherapists from Kyiv Gestalt University who are providing free counselling to those impacted by the conflict.<sup>78</sup> Additionally, the 'Call Tanya Helpline' was established on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 in order to provide confidential psychosocial support to Ukrainians in Ireland who are experiencing distress due to displacement and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Trained call ambassadors are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00 to provide psycho-social support in Ukrainian and Russian.<sup>79</sup> Counselling and Psychotherapy is provided free of charge to displaced Ukrainians by MyMind. Counselling is provided through Ukrainian and Russian speaking counsellors and psychologists and supported by the HSE.<sup>80</sup> Specialised treatment and psychosocial support for torture survivors is mainly provided by SPIRASI, which receives some funding from the Health Service Executive.

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<sup>78</sup> Help Ukraine Ireland, 'Counselling Services for Ukrainians', March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/43cFfFu>.

<sup>79</sup> Irish Examiner, 'National Psychological support helpline for Ukrainian refugees to be launched in Cork', 17 April 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/42SIPFR>.

<sup>80</sup> MyMind, 'Free Counselling for Displaced Ukrainians', available at: <https://mymind.org/ukrainianproject>.